



*Emerging Issues Subcommittee*  
Meeting Minutes  
April 9, 2009

**Summary**

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Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members in Attendance (10):

David Choate, Chair (Arizona State University, Arizona Arrestee Reporting Information Network)

Officer Bobbie Moreland (Phoenix Police Department)

Michelle Anderson (Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections)

Richard Porter (Arizona Department of Health Services, Bureau of Vital Statistics)

Jody Sekerak (Indian Health Services)

Wendy Wolfersteig (Arizona State University)

Michelle Neitch (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission), proxy for Phillip Stevenson (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission)

Mona Polacca (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona), proxy for Wanda LeClere MacDonald (Navajo Behavioral Health Services, Navajo Nation)—via conference call

Christina Cutshaw (University of Arizona)—via conference call

Meena Shahi (First Things First)—via conference call

Emerging Issues Subcommittee Members Absent (4):

Joan McNamara (Pima County/Tucson Commission on Drug Addiction and Prevention, Compass Health Care)

Judith Fritsch (Department of Economic Security, Community Partnerships and Innovative Practices)

Dennis Embry (PAXIS Institute)

Alida Montiel (Inter Tribal Council of Arizona)

Office of Governor Janice K. Brewer's Staff (2):

Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF)

Morgan Hester (GOCYF)



**Call to Order** was made by David Choate at 1:35 p.m. after noting that a quorum was present.

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- David Choate asked the attendees and guests present to introduce themselves and their respective agency/group.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- David Choate verified that the group members had previewed the meeting minutes from February 2009.
  - Jody Sekerak noted that he had been at the meeting and was marked absent.
  - Michelle Anderson motioned to approve the minutes, pending the change Mr. Sekerak noted, and Richard Porter seconded the motion. Motion passed without objection.

### **Announcements**

- Jeanne Blackburn reminded the group of the upcoming 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Substance Abuse Conference hosted by the Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families. The conference will be entitled "Addressing Substance Abuse in Critical Populations: A Call to Action." The conference will be held on April 29 – 30, 2009 at the Pointe Hilton, Squaw Peak Resort located at 7677 North 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85020.
- Ms. Anderson announced the AZENet Conference to be held May 7<sup>th</sup>. Information is available on AZENet.org. It is a one-day conference focused on cost-benefit analysis, featuring the work of Patricia Herman, from ERDU.
- Michelle Neitch announced that ACJC is beginning to prepare for the 2010 AYS. AYS questions have to be finalized by September, and feedback would be appreciated.

### **Transition Updates, including ASAP & Its Subcommittees**

- Morgan Hester informed the group members of the updates to ASAP and its subcommittees:
  - Ms. Hester mentioned changes to sub-committee chairs, but noted that the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group and Emerging Issues Subcommittee chairs would remain the same as those chairs were holders of key data.
  - All sub-committees will report and update the ASAP members on their progress at each ASAP meeting.
  - ASAP is working on a prevention/community resources Strategic Focus Area, and has established a Community Advisory Board.
  - ASAP is working on a prescription drug safeguarding and disposal brochure in coordination with Fry's that will be included with prescriptions.
    - Relating to the Prescription Drug Brochure, Mr. Porter noted that it could be advantageous to only provide the brochures to those prescriptions that are controlled or abused.
  - The next ASAP meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2009 and will focus on underage drinking prevention.
  - Mr. Choate mentioned that it would be useful to have the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group chair and the chair of Emerging Issues sit as ASAP members.



- Ms. Blackburn updated the group on the transition, noting that Dr. Kim O'Connor took a position at the Department of Homeland Security as Counsel to the Director for Counternarcotics Enforcement. The DSAP interim director is Melissa Lempke. The new GOCYF Director will be Cassandra Larsen from the Arizona Prevention Resource Center as of April 13, 2009.
- Ms. Blackburn will be re-evaluating membership to see who is engaged and to ensure that the membership is appropriate. She will be looking for a treatment provider, particularly someone from the private-funded treatment system, and a person in recovery.
  - Ms. Anderson asked if the treatment provider could be a provider of juvenile treatment, and Ms. Blackburn responded that the person could be a provider of juvenile or adult treatment services, or both.

### **Update on Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group**

- Jeanne Blackburn updated the group members on the efforts of the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group:
  - They are looking into funding for printing the Snapshot document as several people have requested hard copies.
  - ITCA presented to the Work Group at the last meeting, and they are moving forward with the tribal data capacity building project.
  - Ms. Blackburn provided the Substance Abuse Epidemiology Work Group members with a list of all the data that each agency provided for the 2007 *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile*. They hope to have a chapter specific to the NOMS for use by community members and other interested parties. Using Bach Harrison, the contractor for the AYS, should ensure a truly professional project. The contract is in the works. In the future, the template created by Bach Harrison can be used for other profiles and reports.
    - Ms. Neitch asked if she needed to submit AYS data for the profile, considering that the firm already has it. Ms. Blackburn said that she would inform Bach Harrison of which indicators to use instead of requiring the data to be submitted to them again.
  - The adult data prevalence gap identified in the 2005 and 2007 *Substance Abuse Epidemiology Profile* will be addressed through the SPF SIG grant to add adult prevalence questions to the St. Luke's Health Initiative Arizona Health Survey. This will add pertinent and important questions, expand it beyond Maricopa County and increase the number of surveys to ensure statistical power sufficient for analyses. The goal of this initiative is to get data to communities and policymakers on the substance abuse prevalence patterns of Arizona's adults and the correlated health and access-to-care issues as well as the resiliencies of the communities in which these adults reside.
    - A list of questions will be discussed with the Epi Work Group when they meet next week and the survey design will be discussed to get their approval and feedback.
  - Ms. Blackburn shared that the Emerging Issues Subcommittee has been elevated parallel with the Epi Work Group, which removes procedural hindrances, but will raise expectations and the role of the group with ASAP.



### **Emerging Trends and the State's Capacity to Respond: Executive Action Briefing Review**

- Ms. Blackburn revisited this Strategic Focus Area, and reminded the group that she must track the progress made toward these action steps and goals. This document serves as a workplan for the sub-committee for which the group is accountable, but is dynamic and changing based upon the feasibility of the work and other outside influences. The group can revisit how to address the action steps at the next meeting when some of its documents and products have been released.
  - Mr. Choate agreed and said that the group needs to determine how to ensure a steady workflow of products while continuing to address the already-identified priorities.

### **Update on Spotlight Report: Rx Drug Abuse**

- David Choate informed the group that he had incorporated the members' suggestions about edits, formatting, etc.
  - Mr. Choate asked the group if these adjustments were acceptable. Suggestions for final edits were solicited from group members.
    - Ms. Blackburn asked the group members to contact her with any other typos.
    - The group felt that the document was very well done and thanked Mr. Choate for his work.
  - Ms. Neitch made a motion to accept the document with the modifications, and Ms. Wolfersteig seconded. The motion passed with no objections.

### **Canary Survey**

- Mr. Choate provided an edited list of questions for the group to consider for the survey of School Resource Officers (SROs).
  - He noted that the survey will be print-based in order to increase the completion rate.
    - Officer Moreland noted that SRO's could be asked to do the survey during briefings to ensure a high response rate.
    - Officer Moreland asked about the target date for administering the survey.
    - Ms. Anderson noted that Casa Grande had lost their SRO's due to budget cuts, and if their responses were needed, the survey would have to be completed before the end of the school year. This is also the case with other smaller cities.
  - Mr. Choate noted that context explaining the purpose of the survey needs to accompany the instrument.
  - After a discussion over whether to request the school name and district, a compromise was reached to instead request the SRO's school zip code.
  - Mr. Sederak inquired as to the final product/outcome, and the group members indicated that a report on findings would be reported to ASAP. This survey would give a current appraisal of the drug issues in a school, and the anticipated emerging issues.
  - Ms. Blackburn inquired as to whether an approval from ASU's Institutional Review Board (IRB) would be sought.



- The group members concurred that IRB approval would be sought by Mr. Choate.

### **Life Path Project**

- Jeanne Blackburn provided the group with a brief introduction to the Life Path Project to be discussed and edited.
  - Ms. Blackburn noted that the final document/report needs to be vetted through ADJC once it is approved by the group after which it will be provided to ASAP and the recommendations regarding what the information means for Arizona will be explained at a presentation.
  - An ad-hoc work group was suggested as a way of continuing the work and Ms. Anderson and Ms. Neitch agreed to work on the document as well.
  - Ms. Blackburn will follow up with the ad-hoc work group volunteers between now and the May ASAP meeting.
  - Mr. Porter asked if there had been progress on the co-occurring disorders Spotlight Report and indicated that he would send some related data to be included.
  - The group will consider a Spotlight report on heroin in the future. Ms. Anderson and Ms. Neitch noted that there has been recent media coverage on heroin and ASAP has also asked for more information on the trend. The group agreed that they should be responsive to the interest of ASAP.

### **Call to Public**

- Ms. Hester noted that, according to information from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the price of methamphetamine has dropped and subsequently, the availability of the drug in Arizona has increased.
  - Mr. Choate noted that there could be AARIN data on drug prices in the summer.

**Adjourn** at 3:25 p.m. by David Choate after Ms. Wolfersteig moved to adjourn, a motion that was seconded by Richard Porter. Mr. Choate reminded the group members that the next meeting is scheduled for May 14 from 1:30 – 3:30 in the 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room of the Executive Tower.

Minutes submitted by Jeanne Blackburn (GOCYF).